

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A snowboard boot strap anchor comprising:  
a raised portion having a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of an ankle strap and an instep pad of the snowboard boot to provide sufficient space for the instep pad to slide beneath the ankle strap, wherein the raised portion comprises at least three separate mounting locations; and  
a thin base portion associated with the raised portion for attachment to an upper portion of the snowboard boot.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the strap anchor is a unitary member.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the strap anchor is made of at least one of a plastic, rubber, a composite material or metal material.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one mounting location includes a sleeve for receiving a fastener device.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one mounting location includes a means for receiving a tool-less fastener device.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the raised portion has a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of at least two straps of a strap arrangement.
7. (Currently Amended) A snowboard boot strap mounting system comprising:  
an ankle strap arrangement including an instep pad;  
a first strap anchor operatively associated with the ankle strap arrangement, and having a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of an ankle strap and the instep pad to provide sufficient space for the instep pad to

slide beneath the ankle strap, and wherein the strap anchor raised portion comprises  
~~containing~~ at least three separate mounting locations, the strap anchor including a base  
portion for attachment to a snowboard boot upper[[:]] and the [[an]] ankle strap arrangement  
having a first distal end for attachment to the first strap anchor; and  
a fastener device for connecting the first distal end of the ankle strap arrangement to  
the first strap anchor by mating with a selected mounting location.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the first strap anchor is attached to the  
medial side of the snowboard boot upper and a second distal end of the strap arrangement is  
connected to the lateral side of the snowboard boot upper.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7 further comprising a second strap  
anchor having a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the  
combined thickness of the ankle strap and the instep pad, wherein the raised portion  
comprises including at least three separate mounting locations, and a base portion for  
attachment to the snowboard boot upper.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second strap anchor is attached to  
the lateral side of the snowboard boot upper and a second distal end of the strap arrangement  
is configured for attachment to a selected mounting location of the second strap anchor.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein at least one mounting location includes  
a sleeve for receiving a fastener device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein at least one mounting location includes  
a means for receiving a tool-less fastener device.

13. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the first strap anchor raised portion has  
a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of at least two  
straps of the ankle strap arrangement.

14. (Currently Amended) A snowboard boot comprising:  
an outsole;

an upper connected to the outsole;

an ankle strap arrangement including and instep pad arranged to overlie the upper and having first and second distal ends attached to first and second attachment locations, the ankle strap arrangement having an adjustable length; and

at least one strap anchor that includes a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of an ankle strap and the instep pad to provide sufficient space for the instep pad to slide beneath the ankle strap and comprising ~~containing~~ at least three separate mounting locations, and a thin base portion, the strap anchor affixed to the boot upper in at least one of the first and second attachment locations;

wherein at least one of the distal ends of the ankle strap is removably mounted to a selected mounting location of the strap anchor.

15. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 further comprising a fastener device for connecting the first distal end of the ankle strap arrangement to the strap anchor by mating with a selected mounting location.

16. (Currently Amended) The snowboard boot of claim 14 further comprising a second strap anchor having a raised portion with height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of the ankle strap and instep pad and comprising ~~including~~ at least three separate mounting locations, and a base portion attached to the other of the first and second attachment locations.

17. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 wherein at least one mounting location includes a sleeve for receiving a fastener device.

18. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 wherein at least one mounting location includes a means for receiving a tool-less fastener device.

19. (Original) The snowboard boot of claim 14 wherein the strap anchor raised portion has a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of at least two straps of the ankle strap arrangement.